

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten paragraph (37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii)) and claims (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

The Office Action, in item #1 on page 2, indicates that Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of earlier foreign filing date under 35 U.S.C. §119. The Examiner is directed to the Application Data Sheet and Application Transmittal sheet (copies enclosed) filed with the application and a certified copy of the priority foreign application on October 19, 2001.

I. The Specification and Drawings Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the specification because of informalities. The specification is amended in order to obviate this objection. The Office Action also objects to drawings for various informalities. Figs. 9, 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B, 12, 13 and 14A are corrected in accordance with the Examiners recommendations. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification and drawings is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,222,319 to Yamato (hereinafter "Yamato"); and rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yamato in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,916,924 to Foss (hereinafter "Foss"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Yamato does not disclose, teach or suggest a reel seat for fishing rod comprising a movable front hood and a fixed rear hood, that attach the reel foot to the reel foot placing surface; and a trigger protruding from the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping toward the downward and backward direction relative to a rear end of the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body

and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon, as claimed in claim 1.

Further, Yamato does not disclose, teach or suggest a fishing rod comprising a trigger protruding from a position opposite to a reel foot placing surface at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping downward and backward relative to a rear end of a lower portion of the reel seat and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon, as claimed in claim 5.

Instead, Yamato is directed to a fishing rod having a conventional trigger extending from the body of the fishing rod in substantially right angle. The length of the trigger in Yamato is short such that it can be held by a forefinger of an average size adult. Further, the trigger in Yamato is located substantially just under a thumb touching back the spool of a reel. The trigger shown in Yamato, like most conventional triggers, has common faults like over-burdening a users wrist and elbow in palming.

The claimed invention provides for a trigger that extends in a downward and backward direction relative to a rear end of the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong piped shape body of the reel seat. Further, as recited in the claimed invention, the trigger has a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon.

Therefore, Yamato does not disclose a reel seat and a trigger as claimed in claims 1-3 and 5.

Foss does not make up for the deficiencies of Yamato. Further, Foss provides no motivation for modifying its structure to match the claimed invention.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that, taken separately or together, Yamato and Foss do not teach or suggest a present invention as claimed in claims 1-5.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and independent claim 5 are distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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George P. Simion
Registration No. 47,089

JAO:GPS/lrc

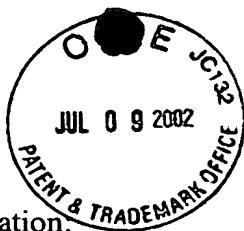
Attachments:

Appendix
Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections
Copy of Application Data Sheet
Copy of Application Transmittal Sheet

Date: July 9, 2002

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APPENDIX

Changes to Specification.

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The following is a marked-up version of the amended paragraph:

[0009] When the reel "c" is mounted, one end portion of the fixing foot "d" is inserted into the fixed hood "g". The fixing foot "d" is placed on the reel foot placing surface "e". The nut "j" is tightened and the movable hood "i" is moved toward the rear direction. The other end portion of the fixing foot "d" is inserted relative to the movable hood "i", and the respective movable and fixed hoods "gi" and "ig" hold the fixing foot "d" onto the reel foot placing surface "e".

[0067] A comparison can be made between Fig. 14(A) showing palming when using a conventional trigger "f" and Fig. 14(B) showing palming when using the trigger 13 related to this embodiment (the reels "c" and 31 are the same). A distance "d" exists from the top portion of the reel "c" and 31 to the center axis of the body "b" and 3. A distance d1' exists from the user's fourth finger, placed in the vicinity of the tip of the trigger 13, to the center axis of the body 3 and is several times longer than the distance d1, from the user's finger placed in the conventional trigger "f" (the fourth or middle finger) to the center axis of the body "b". Thus, a distance D' between the user's fourth finger placed in the vicinity of the tip of the trigger 13, and the tip of the thumb is much greater than distance D. Therefore, a force which prevents rotating of the fishing rod 21 in the axis rotation direction can be much smaller. Also, the fatigue of palming for long hours can be extremely reduced.

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

1. (Amended) A reel seat for a fishing rod that includes a fishing rod body and that defines a downward and backward direction comprising:

an oblong pipe-shaped body through which the fishing rod body passes, the oblong pipe-shaped body defining a circumferential surface with a top portion and a lower portion;

a reel foot;

a reel foot placing surface formed on the top portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body,

a movable front hood and a fixed rear hood, that attach the reel foot to the reel foot placing surface; and

a trigger protruding from the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping toward the downward and backward direction relative to a rear end of the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon.

3. (Amended) The reel seat for the fishing rod as set forth in claim 1,

wherein a tip portion of an area of the front surface of the trigger on which a user's fingers can be placed is positioned behind a ~~position-portion~~ immediately below the highest position of an opening portion of the fixed rear hood.

5. (Amended) A fishing rod comprising:

a fishing rod body, that defines a downward and backward direction, on which line guides are mounted;

a reel seat;

a handle that extends backward from a position of the reel seat; and

a trigger protruding from a position opposite to a reel foot placing surface at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger

sloping downward and backward relative to a rear end of a lower portion of the reel seat and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon.

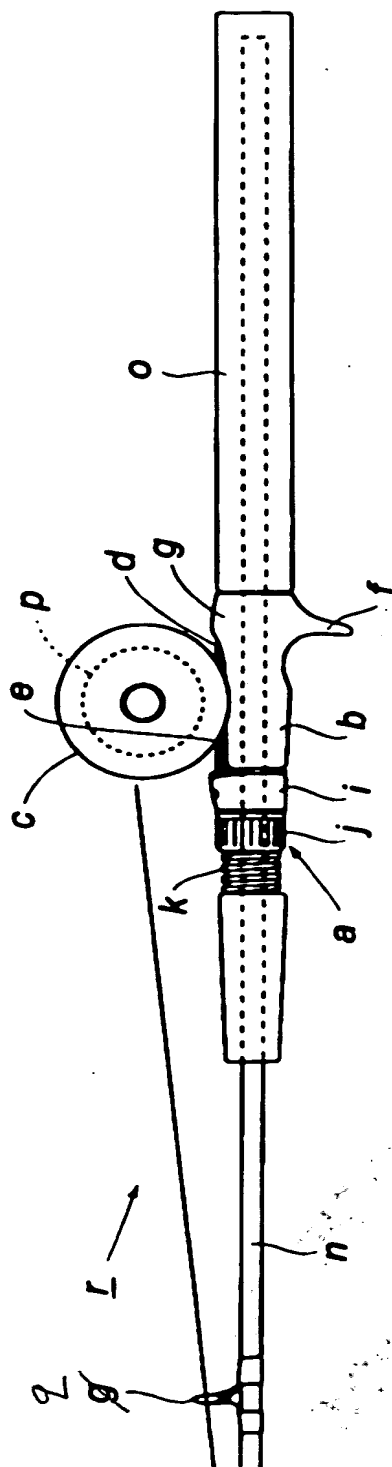


Fig. 9

(RELATED ART)

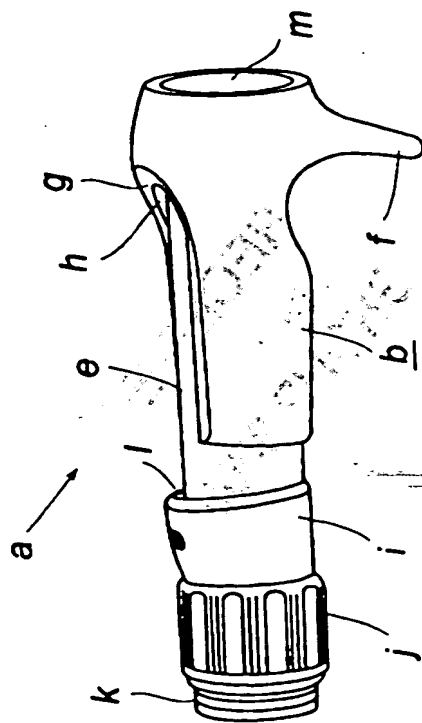


Fig. 10A

(RELATED ART)

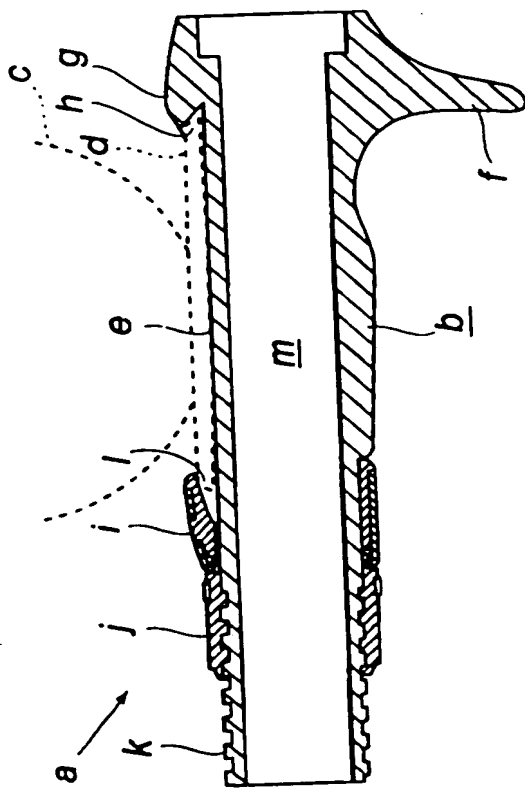


Fig. 10B

(RELATED ART)

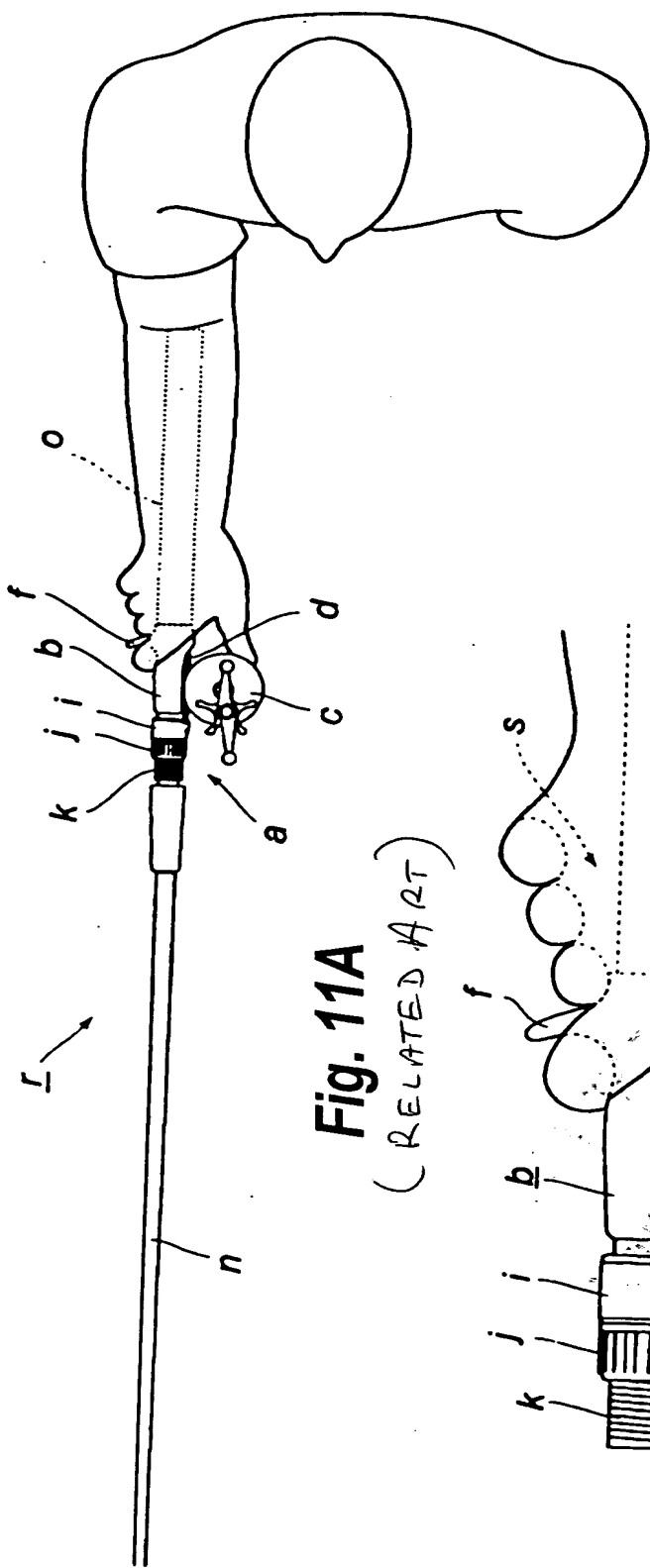


Fig. 11A
(RELATED ART)

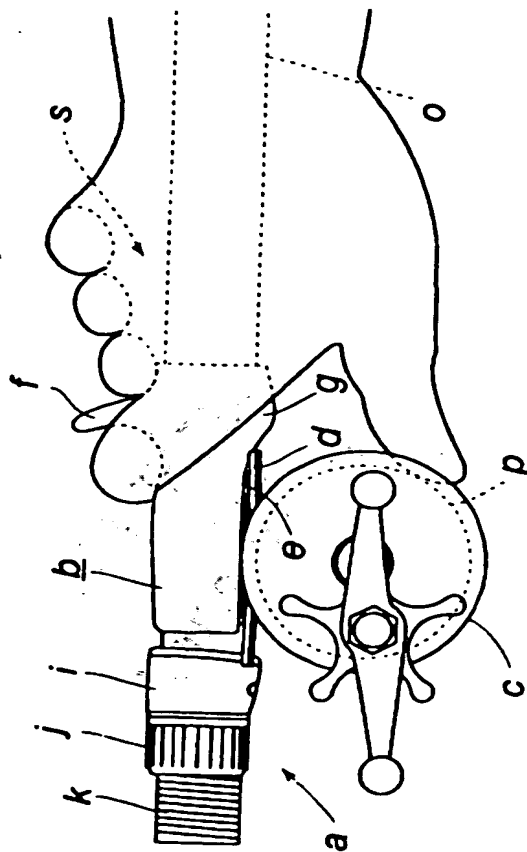


Fig. 11B
(RELATED ART)

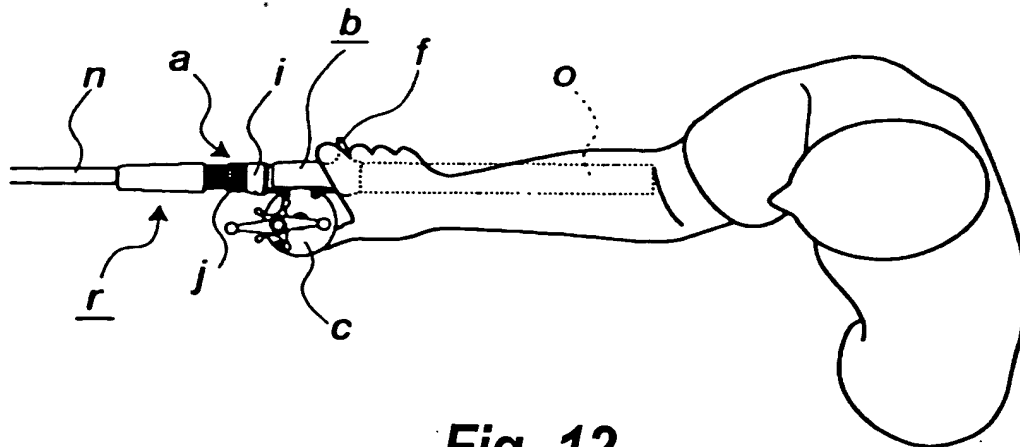


Fig. 12
(RELATED ART)

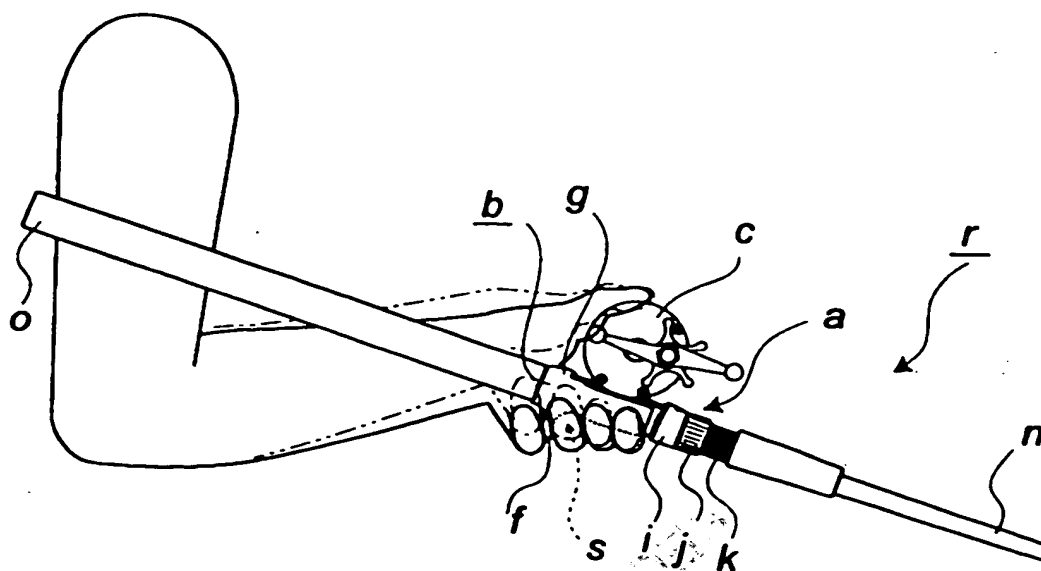


Fig. 13
(RELATED ART)

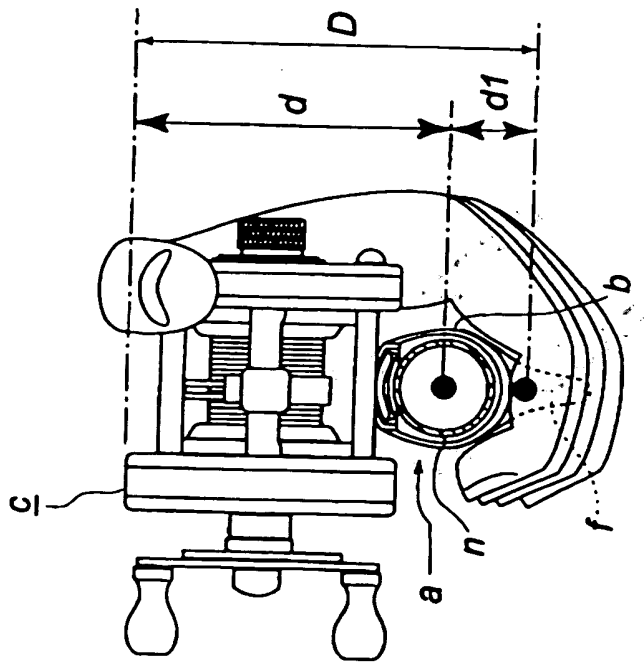


Fig. 14A
(RELATED ART)

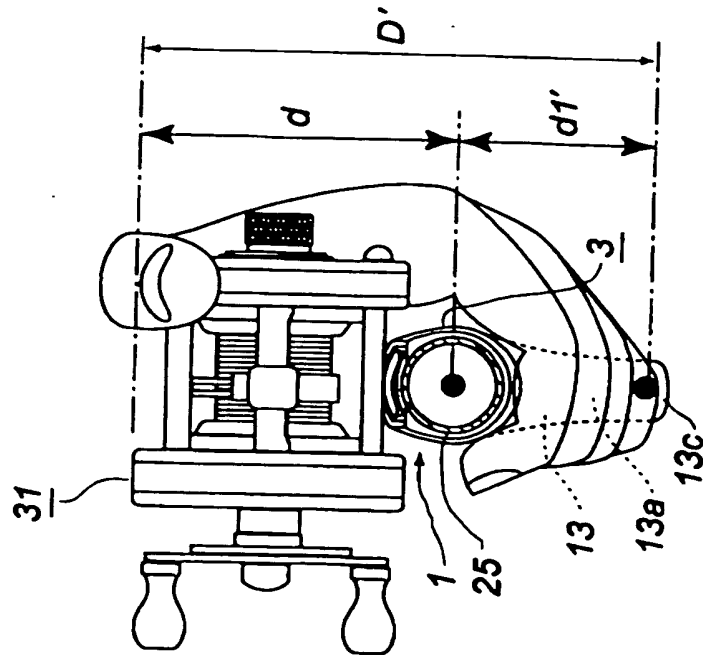


Fig. 14B